

## Message Text

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FOR AMBASSADOR CARTER

FOLLOWING REPEAT BANGKOK 25415 SENT ACTION STATE SEP 02.

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SUBJ: FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW ARTICLE ON CAMBODIAN  
REFUGEES

REF A. BANGKOK 24339 B. STATE 220616

1. SUMMARY: THE RECENT EXODUS OF CAMBODIAN REFUGEES HAS BEEN LIMITED TO TA PHRAYA AND ARANYAPRATHET DISTRICTS, OF PRACHINBURI PROVINCE. THE PROBLEM HAS BEEN SOMEWHAT ALLEVIATED BY THE TRANSFER OF 244 REFUGEES TO THE UNHCR-SUPPORTED CAMP IN ARANYAPRATHET, AND BY THE DECREASE IN THE NUMBER OF NEW ARRIVALS IN THESE AREAS (ONLY 21 DURING THE LAST 7 DAYS). THERE ARE NOW 431 REFUGEES IN TA PHRAYA. ANOTHER 57 ARE AT THE MILITARY CAMP IN ARANYA AND  
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12 AT THE POLICE STATION THERE.

2. THE FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW ARTICLE REFERRED TO IN REF B IS FAIRLY ACCURATE. LOCAL RTG OFFICIALS DID PROVIDE THE REFUGEES WITH FOOD AND SOME CLOTHING (USUALLY DONATED BY THAI PRIVATE CITIZENS). AS NOTED REF A, SHELTER HAS BEEN INSUFFICIENT. PENTACOSTAL MISSIONARIES

FROM ARANYAPRATHET HAVE NOW SUPPLIED THE FUNDS FOR THE LUMBER AND KHMER REFUGEES HAVE PROVIDED THE LABOR TO BUILD THREE TEMPORARY SHELTERS. THESE WERE COMPLETED THREE WEEKS AFTER THE MAJORITY OF THE REFUGEES ARRIVED. UNHCR DID NOT WANT TO CONSTRUCT SHELTERS FEARING THAT IT MIGHT BE A DISINCENTIVE TO PROMPT MOVEMENT OF THE REFUGEES TO ARANYAPRATHET. VARIOUS VOLUNTARY AGENCIES HAVE BEEN PROVIDING OTHER NECESSITIES, SUCH AS, MEDICINE, MOSQUITO NETS, SOAP, EATING UTENSILS, BLANKETS ETC. ALTHOUGH THE INITIAL VOLAG RESPONSE WAS SLOW AND UNCOORDINATED. OUR MAJOR CONCERN HAS BEEN MEDICAL TREATMENT OF THE REFUGEES. INITIALLY MEDICAL TREATMENT WAS HIT-OR-MISS. NOW A VOLAG REPRESENTATIVE GOES TO TA PHRAYA EVERY DAY TO TRANSFER ANY SERIOUSLY WOUNDED OR INJURED NEW ARRIVALS TO THE RTG PROVINCIAL HOSPITAL IN ARANYA, OR TO THE IRC RUN CLINIC IN THE CAMP, AND PROVIDE FIRST AID FOR THE OTHERS.

3. BECAUSE THE REFUGEES ARE LOCATED IN A LARGE FIELD WITHOUT A FENCE, THEIR HEADS HAVE BEEN SHAVED FOR IDENTIFICATION PURPOSES.

4. APART FROM THE TA PHRAYA AND ARANYAPRATHET AREA THERE HAS BEEN NO OVERWHELMING INFLUX OF REFUGEES. IN SISAKET PROVINCE THE UNHCR REPORTS THAT THERE ARE ONLY 4. IN SURIN PROVINCE THERE ARE 30 AT THE KAP CHOEUNG POLICE STATION. IN PONG NAM RON DISTRICT OF CHANTHABURI ONLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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2-3 REFUGEES HAVE BEEN COMING OUT WEEKLY. BURIRAM PROVINCE HAS 21 AT THE BAN KRUAU POLICE STATION.

THE MAJOR DETENTION CENTER FOR CAMBODIANS IN BURIRAM NOW HAS A POPULATION OF 285. THIS FIGURE MARKS A CONSIDERABLE DECREASE FROM THE JULY FIGURE OF 580.

5. THE REFUGEES COMPLAINED ABOUT THE FOOD RATIONS IN CAMBODIA. SOME CLAIMED THEY RECEIVED 1 MILK TIN (ABOUT 10 OUNCES) OF RICE PER DAY FOR 10 PERSONS. OTHERS STATE THEY GOT THE SAME FOR 16 PERSONS. THEY ALSO SAID THAT THERE WAS NO SHORTAGE OF LOCALLY GROWN RICE BUT THAT TRUCKS CAME TO CARRY IT ALL AWAY. THE RECENT EXODUS OF CAMBODIAN REFUGEES TO PRACHINBURI APPEARS TO STEM LARGELY FROM A FEARED PURGE IN ONE DISTRICT (THAM POEK OF NORTHERN BATTAMBANG PROVINCE). IN ADDITION TO THE FEARED PURGE, THE REFUGEES SAY THE NEW AUTHORITIES IN THEIR AREA ARE INCREASINGLY INFLEXIBLE AND THE STRICT REGULATIONS ARE ENFORCED IMMEDIATELY. ONE OLD MAN MANAGED TO ESCAPE WITH HIS SON-IN-LAW. BOTH WERE FARMERS AND NEVER HAD ANY CONNECTION WITH THE FORMER GOVERNMENT OR THE MILITARY. THEY WERE ABSENT FROM WORK

ONE DAY WHILE THEY WENT TO THE FOREST TO FIND FOOD. THEY  
HAD NEVER BROKEN ANY RULES BEFORE, BUT BECAUSE OF THIS  
ABSENCE ALL 11 IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS WERE TAKEN AWAY  
FOR EXECUTION. THEY DID NOT REALIZE WHAT AWAITED THEM  
UNTIL THEY ARRIVED AT AN AREA WHERE THEY HEARD THE  
SCREAMS OF OTHERS BEING EXECUTED. ALL ELEVEN RAN AND  
THE KHMER ROUGE IMMEDIATELY OPENED FIRE ON THEM. ONLY  
THE TWO MADE IT. ALTHOUGH THEY DID NOT SEE THE OTHERS  
KILLED, THEY SAID THAT THEY WERE ALL TOO WEAK FROM  
LACK OF FOOD TO HAVE RUN VERY FAR. ABRAMOWITZ  
UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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